

**IMPERIALISM.**

The Kansas City convention sought to emphasize the importance of their imperialistic plank by placing it as the leader in the platform. People who honestly fear imperialism cannot consistently support the nominee of that convention. No mediæval monarch ruled more despotically than did Bryan at Kansas City. No imperial dictator was ever clothed in greater power than that assumed by the Nebraska boss. His will was supreme. Instead of the platform reflecting the combined wisdom of the convention it was framed to suit the wishes of this one man. That it was not in accord with the will of the majority is evident from the poll made by Senator Money of Mississippi. This showed that only 171 out of 932 delegates were in favor of the adoption of the 16 to 1 plank. But in spite of this overwhelming sentiment, the Nebraska boss forced the adoption of a 16 to 1 resolution. Could there be anything more despotically tyrannical than this imperial dictation? Is it possible to conceive of a more oppressive imperialism than this? If we must have imperialism THE CONSERVATIVE would have it as far away as possible. Imperialism in the Philippines is preferable to the imperialism of Bryan at home.

**CLUBBING LIST.**

THE CONSERVATIVE calls attention to its special subscription offer which appears in the advertising columns of this issue. We trust that many will avail themselves of this opportunity to secure the paper at a reduction of one-third from the regular price.

THE CONSERVATIVE is an independent paper, and is not bound by the limitations of any political party. It is unwavering in its opposition to dishonest schemes of finance and unfaltering in its denunciation of demagogues who would make people rich by legislative enactment. It is opposed to the American boss, which is the only kind of imperialism endangering this republic.

THE CONSERVATIVE invites all who want a fearless, independent paper to avail themselves of its clubbing offer.

**THEODORE ROOSEVELT.**

Henry Watter-son in the *Courier Journal* (dem.)

pays the following tribute to the republican vice presidential nominee:

"Theodore Roosevelt!

"He brings to the ticket just the things that McKinley cannot give it. He is in every way McKinley's complement—in age, in temperament, in record and in influence. He will supply the magnetism and inspire the ardor necessary to a hurrah campaign. He will light the torches and wave the flags. But he will do much more than that.

He will attract a large element of the independent vote, which thinks for itself, which rebels against boss rule, which recognizes and admires brains, courage and integrity. There is no man in the country who has a larger following among this class than Roosevelt, and it is a class which is daily growing stronger and more assertive in the affairs of government.

"But Roosevelt's strength will be even greater among the young men, among the full-blooded Americans of action and progress, who believe in fighting when fighting is necessary, and who, however proudly they may look back on their country's past, look forward to its future even more proudly.

"Truly the republicans are fortunate in having such a man to stand by Mc-

**A Man of Letters.**

Kinley at this time, to hold up his hands when they most need support, and to assume, when he drops the reins, party leadership in the widening horizon of the new century. It is a bold and picturesque figure the young governor makes as he advances to the side of the chieftain who is closing his public career. Youthful, well-balanced; a gentleman, a cow-puncher; a man of letters, a man of action; a clear-headed politician, a dashing soldier, he has the respect of those to whom ability, both mental and physical, appeals, and he has the admiration of those whom accomplishment, whether in the field of politics, arms or literature, impresses. He is today the most hopeful figure in the republican party. He has the confidence of the anti-machine men, and yet he bosses the bosses. Better than all, he has shown throughout his public work that he has a deep insight into the vital elements of democracy, that he has a firm grip on the principles which must guide an enduring republic, that he is through and through a sound, self-reliant and vigorous American."

**THE ANTI-IMPERIALISTS.**

The adoption of an anti-imperialist resolution by the Kansas City convention will not rally the anti-imperialists to the support of Bryan. The declaration of the convention is not consistent with the record of the nominee. Bryan's responsibility for imperialism is not forgotten. The treaty of peace with Spain made imperialism possible. By the terms of this treaty sovereignty over the Philippines passed from Spain to the United States.

Because of this clause in the treaty anti-imperialists opposed its ratification by the senate. So effective was the opposition among senators that a majority was secured to vote against the treaty.

Had not the plans of the anti-imperialists been interfered with the treaty would not have been ratified. It would have been returned for amendment and we would have escaped the responsibil-

ities that now confront us. But unhappily for the opponents of the treaty, Bryan resigned his commission in the army, hastened to Washington and whipped unwilling democratic senators into line and secured the ratification of the treaty. In thus favoring ratification Bryan endorsed everything the treaty contained and must bear the responsibility of all that has resulted from it. Anti-imperialists who vote for Bryan would be voting for the original imperialist.

There was method in the action of Bryan in favoring ratification. He wished to remove the Philippine problem from the department of state where it belonged to the field of partisan discussion thereby giving him a subject for declamation in 1900. The motive is even more reprehensible than the act. Will the voters give their endorsement to such childish politics? Will they commend conduct so contemptibly demagogic?

**RAILROADS.** In his tirade against railway corporations, at Ripley, Aug. 31, 1896, Mr. Bryan thus portrayed their oppression of the farmer:

"Freight rates have not fallen. Some one told me that for some reason or other freight rates had risen in this country. And it is true that there has been no fall in freight rates commensurate with the fall in prices in property."

This paragraph, of but three assertions, contains three distinct falsehoods. It is an excellent exhibition of Mr. Bryan's superior ability to condense error. Whether these misstatements were through ignorance or a willful attempt to distort the truth, THE CONSERVATIVE is unable to determine. Either construction is possible and either is equally probable.

To show that freight rates have fallen we publish the following table of rates for both passenger and freight traffic upon all the roads of the United States for five-year periods, from 1870 to 1898:

Year.	Rates in cents per mile per—	
	Passenger.	Ton of freight.
1870.....	2.392	1.889
1875.....	2.378	1.421
1880.....	2.442	1.232
1885.....	2.216	1.011
1890.....	2.167	.941
1895.....	2.040	.839
1898.....	1.973	.753

Not only are the rates lower today than ever before, but the train service is better. The cars are better built. Passengers may now ride in veritable palaces on wheels. The facilities for transporting freight have been remarkably improved. The road beds are better constructed and the accommodations for both passenger and freight traffic better than ever before. Mr.